14. (Three Times Amended) An image input device for picking up images of one subject or more by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an image of a subject and to output an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction switch adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit;

an angle detection unit adapted to detect a change of an angle of the image pickup direction; and

a control unit adapted to automatically store an image signal including a predetermined angle in a storage unit, in accordance with detecting a change of the image pickup direction by said angle detection unit.

15. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a fixing detection unit adapted to determine whether the image pickup direction is fixed.

16. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a driving unit adapted to change the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit.

17.   (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control unit stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

18.   (Twice Amended) An image input device according to claim 17, wherein said control unit is adapted to cause the stored image signal to be output when said image pickup unit is shifted from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

19.   (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage unit has at least more than two areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises a memory control unit adapted to switch between said at least more than two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the change of angle detected by said angle detection unit.

20.   (Twice Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control unit is adapted to control output of the image signal such that the image signal is output repeatedly.

21.   (Twice Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control unit is adapted to control output of the image signal such that the image signal is output selectively.

23.   (Twice Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon, wherein said image pickup direction switch is adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit between a direction for picking up an image of the subject laid on said mount table and another direction; and

a storage unit adapted to store the image signal output from said image pickup unit when the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit is the direction for picking up the subject on said mount table, and

wherein said control unit is adapted to control, at an arbitrary timing, output of the stored image signal.

28.   (Three Times Amended) An image input method for picking up an image of a subject by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of the subjects, the image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting a change of an angle of the image pickup direction; and

automatically storing an image signal including a predetermined angle in a storage unit, in accordance with detecting a change of an angle of the image pickup direction in said detecting step.

30.   (Twice Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, wherein the stored image signal is output when the detected change of angle of the image pickup direction is shifted from an angle corresponding to a document image pickup direction to a person image pickup direction.

31.   (Twice Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of outputting an image signal, stored in said storing step, repeatedly.

32.   (Twice Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of outputting an image signal, stored in said storing step, selectively.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 29, 2002. Claims 14-21, 23, 28 and 30-32 are presented for examination. Claim 22 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.